



Preparing a people: Climate change and public health

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Abstract:

Almost 700 people died from heat-related stress during the catastrophic 1995 heat wave in Chicago, Illinois. The three-day weather event saw 24-hour mean average temperatures of 87.2°F; the heat reached triple digits on two days, and there was little relief at night. Many people succumbed to heart attack and dehydration, while others collapsed during severe episodes of existing respiratory conditions. The death toll in the summer of 1995 gave Chicagoans a clear picture of how a surge in hot weather can affect human health.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.119-a166>

Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Public

Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Temperature, Other Exposure

Air Pollution: Allergens, Ozone

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

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Other Exposure: Sea level rise

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Cardiovascular Effect: Heart Attack

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, General Infectious Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: People of color

Other Vulnerable Population: Living near freeways

Resource Type: 

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format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Policy/Opinion

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified